

12. (amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is an antisense oligonucleotide composed of DNA or RNA or an analogue or mimic of DNA or RNA including but not restricted to the following: methylphosphonate, N3'->P5'-phosphoramidate, morpholino, peptide nucleic acid (PNA), locked nucleic acid (LNA), arabinosyl nucleic acid (ANA), fluoro-arabinosyl nucleic acid (FANA) methoxy-ethyl nucleic acid (MOE).

14. (amended) The compound according to claim 2, wherein in that said oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety nucleobase.

16. (amended) A composition comprising the compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

18. (amended) A method of inhibiting the translation of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein said cells or tissues are contacted with the compound of claim 1 thereby inhibiting the translation of MMP-12.

19. (amended) A method of inhibiting the translation of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein said cells or tissues are contacted with the composition of claim 16 thereby inhibiting the translation of MMP-12.

20. (amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the inhibition of the MMP-12 expression suppresses a MMP-12 dependent process in a human subject.

24. (amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein said MMP-12 dependent disorder is one of inflammatory bowel

disease, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, emphysema and asthma.

25. (amended) A recombinant nucleotide sequence comprising a compound according to claim 1.

32. (amended) A method of inhibiting the expression of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein a composition according to claim 16 is administered to a human in a therapeutically effective dose together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.